



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong  
Diocese of Plymouth

17<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have missed seeing you all this week as I have been busy attending meetings and conferences. I even attended a conference on maths in Croydon on Saturday. It was extremely useful and I brought away lots of good ideas to share with our teachers. However, the most important thing that I have brought away from the meetings this week was about Greta Thunberg. We do not know what faith Greta is but we do know that she is living out the 'Gospel Values' in our world of today. Cardinal Turkson said "Greta Thunberg is a great witness to what the church teaches on the care of the environment and the care of the person." We are fortunate to have Greta's book in our library which will be open to the children who have signed up from next week. I am sure this will be one of the first books off the shelf, as it contains Greta's speeches.



Another important message this week was from our CEO, Mr Raymond Friel, was about the the improved progress being made by our trust. Plymouth Academy Trust has come a long way over the past 3 years and he was looking forward to discussing this with Government ministers on Wednesday. Our Chair of Governors, Ann Harris, the Board's governance lead, presented the work she has led on an Accountability Schedule for local governing boards and checklists to help them fulfil their role outlined in the revised Scheme of Delegation.



**Read Write Inc.**  
**Phonics**

The Read, Write, Inc lessons began this week in Key Stage One and have been well received by the children. Here are some quotes from our children: Karla said "I love the Fred talk, it helps me spell the words!" Lincoln said "I like writing in the book, it's making my handwriting better" and Ellie said "we are learning all about the sounds that are called Special Friends".

**Accelerated Reader™**

The training has begun for the Accelerated Reader scheme: Mrs Wrann, Miss Morris and Mr Thomas have had two online training sessions introducing them to Accelerated Reader which will allow us to guide and track **all** pupils in their book choices, linked appropriately to their reading skills. We are now awaiting labels for all our book stock and they are setting up the assessment system. One class will be trialling an assessment this week so that the next training session can take place.

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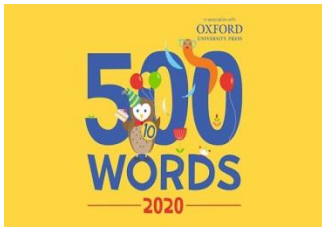
**"Inspiring each other to learn, in the light of Christ"**

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This week saw the launch of Radio 2's "500 word competition. For more details you can go the website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>

Last year lots of children from St Mary's entered and one child got through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of judging. It would lovely to have even more entries this year and you never know maybe a finalist! If you would like us to upload your child's entry then please send it to the office by email. The closing date is the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

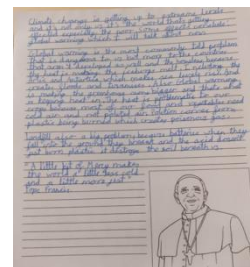
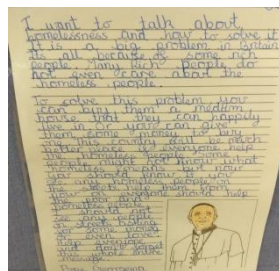
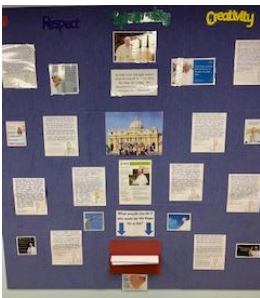
Our Gospel value this week has been 'Humility'. We must remember "That we are God's beloved children." God invites us to be part of His family and we can choose to say 'yes'. We can do this by not thinking about what we wish we had and by being grateful for what we do have. The children have been looking for the good in other people's actions and telling them.



The Diocese are running their annual Catechetical Summer Camps at Buckfast Abbey in August. They provide an opportunity for the young people of the diocese to meet and grow together in the faith and love of Our Lord Jesus, and beauty of the liturgy and prayer. Further details are attached to this email.


Also attached is some information about 'Early Years Teacher Status – teacher training'. This starts from September and trainees would need to have a degree, plus Maths, English and Science GCSE. If you are looking for a change of career this may be of interest to you.

Thank you to Year 5 who have changed the display in the front entrance this week. What would you do if you were the Pope for a day?



We also need to say a big thank you to Esther and all the people in 'Good Gym Poole' who once again chose to run to our school on Tuesday and do some more painting for us. They did a wall in Year 6 and one in the MFL room. They did a great job and we look forward to welcoming them back next week.



Yours faithfully,  
  
 Helen Armstrong  
 Headteacher